

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CA-01 VO-05 EB-08 SP-02 CIAE-00
FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 COME-00 L-03 AGRE-00
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R 171602Z DEC 77
FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 758

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD EEWT CVIS CU UR
SUBJ: CUBAN SUGAR TRADER WISHES TO VISIT US

1. CHIEF CUBAN SUGAR TRADER EMILIANO LEZCANO, PRESIDENT OF CUBASURCAR, ASKED USINT OFFICER (GLASSMAN), DECEMBER 15, WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO VISIT NEW YORK IN MID-JANUARY TO CONSULT WITH NEW YORK COFFEE AND SUGAR EXCHANGE (NYCSE). USINT OFFICER UNDERTOOK TO REFER QUESTION TO WASHINGTON.

2. LEZCANO STATED THAT PURPOSE OF TRIP WOULD BE TO SEE WHETHER NEW YORK "SPOT" PRICE FOR SUGAR COULD BE REESTABLISHED, PERHAPS BASED ON DATA FROM CUBA AND OTHER PRODUCING COUNTRIES. (COMMENT: NEW YORK SUGAR "SPOT" PRICE WAS SUSPENDED IN WAKE OF US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE LAW SUIT LAST MONTH AGAINST NYCSE, PRESUMABLY WITH REGARD TO "PRICE FIXING" INFLUENCE OF "SPOT" PRICE.) LEZCANO SAID THAT CUBAN COMMERCIAL INTERESTS ARE SERVED BY HAVING THREE "SPOT" PRICES (LONDON, HONG KONG AND NEW YORK). (COMMENT: THREE "SPOT" PRICES MAY INCREASE POSSIBLE CONTACT VARIATIONS OR PROTECT AGAINST LOW PRICE QUOTATION ANOMALY IN ANY ONE EXCHANGE.)

3. COMMENT: IN ADDITION TO STATED PURPOSE, LEZCANO WILL
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PRESUMABLY SEEK TO TALK TO NEW YORK SUGAR BROKERS.

4. RECOMMENDATION: WE ARE INCLINED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF LEZCANO VISA REQUEST, BOTH BECAUSE HE IS A VALUED CONTACT AND BECAUSE IT WOULD BE USEFUL GESTURE TO CUBA (FOLLOWING UP ON ISA SIGNATURE) WHICH WOULD OFFSET WHATEVER NEGATIVE SIGNALS CONVEYED BY US SUGAR TARIFF ACTION. IF DEPARTMENT

AGREES IN PRINCIPLE TO VISA ISSUANCE, LEZCANO WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE TO BE ORALLY CAUTIONED NOT TO UNDERTAKE ANY ACTIONS VIOLATING US EMBARGO REGULATIONS. DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO WISH TO CONSULT WITH JUSTICE REGARDING THEIR REACTION TO POSSIBLE VARIANT ON FORMER NYCSE "SPOT" PRICE SYSTEM. WHILE WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO REINSTITUTION OF "SPOT" PRICE SHOULD NECESSARILY BLOCK VISA ISSUANCE, IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO CONVEY TO LEZCANO USG THINKING ON MATTER BEFORE HE HOLDS TALKS WITH NYCSE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE REQUESTED ON LEZCANO VISA ISSUANCE AND ON "SPOT" PRICE QUESTION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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